

School Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2012, 6:30 p.m.
Room 207

1. Call to Order and Prayer – Laura Maly

Members in attendance: Lisa Lesjak, Lauren Beckmann, Liz Haas, Peter Christenson, Dan Davis, Laura Maly, Nancy Knight, and Michele Weinschrott

Members absent: Jane Connell, Fr. Dennis Dirx, Karen Hunt, Fr. Kevin McManaman, Catherine Mercuri, Trish Ognar, and Marcia Velde

Guest: Wendy Wallace

2. Pastor's Report – Fr. Dennis Dirx

No report due to Fr. Dennis' absence. Lisa reported that Jim Pittelkow, the new director of Finance and Administration, has started. The SAB recognized Fr. Dennis on his upcoming 40th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. Congratulations Fr. Dennis!

3. Principal's Report – Lauren Beckmann

Lauren reported that faculty is working on end of year wrap projects. A new teacher transition approach is being implemented this year where teachers teach a lower grade level for two periods to get acquainted with students who will be in their class the following year. In August, transition meetings will occur where teachers pass along a learning profile of each student that will be added to each year and will focus on student learning style and student grasp of math and language arts.

St. Robert's will be participating in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's Discovery Project which offers on-line courses for academically gifted middle school students. In addition, the school will be participating in a staff professional development pilot study initiated by the archdiocese in the fall of 2012.

SAB members were reminded to complete their on-line evaluation of the principal. The results will be compiled by Laura and Dan and shared with Fr. Dennis, who will then discuss them with Lauren. Next year, this process should take place in January, prior to awarding Lauren another contract, which should be done by March 1st, because teachers need to know who their principal is before they agree to their contract offers. Laura and Dan will also

discuss with Fr. Dennis the need to officially offer Lauren a contract along with adequate compensation.

Lauren reported there is good teacher representation on the Compensation Committee which plans to base teacher compensation on teacher assessments. The committee is exploring compensation modules that do not just focus on student achievement. The committee hopes to implement the new compensation module within a few years.

4. Committee Reports

- Education and Formation – Liz Haas

The committee discussed the May principal coffee and agreed that these coffees were successful and should occur next year on a quarterly basis. The woolly pocket garden is on hold at this time. The Iowa Basic test results are in and the results will be shared with parents. Middle school students were surveyed about possible options for their music elective and after school electives. SAB members suggested adding middle school electives to next year's parent survey since some parents feel there should be more non-music electives. The committee discussed ways to display student art which is visible but complies with the building code. Dan will discuss these ideas with Matt Hietpas and Bill Schlise.

- Technology Committee – Peter Christenson

The committee hopes to implement an iPad pilot program for next year with 8 iPads for students in kindergarten through 3rd grade and a 1-to-1 ratio for middle school students. In order for this technology to be fully utilized, teachers need to be trained first. The committee is also assisting with the development of online staff and student professional development as mentioned by Lauren.

- Budget – Catherine Mercuri

No report due to Catherine's absence.

- Marketing and Recruitment Committees – Lisa Lesjak and Trish Ognar

The new registration fee schedule was a big success and motivated families to register in a timely manner. There is a new surge of interest in the school right now. Another issue of *Blueprint* should be published in time for the Parish fair in June.

- Environment – Dan Davis

The new fire alarm system will be installed this summer. The church steeple requires repairs that will also occur this summer. New stage light boards are needed but this project will be added to the capital improvement budget since the project cost is approximately \$80,000 - \$90,000.

- Development – Marcia Velde and Lisa Lesjak

Donations to the Annual Fund are on track and there will be a big push during the coming months to finish strong before the end of the fiscal year in June. Lisa reported that there were very few school families (7-8) not meeting their stewardship commitment to the parish. Fr. Dennis is in the process of contacting these families to discuss this issue.

5. Parish Council – Nancy Knight

New parish council members for 2012 are Greg Kaftan (re-elected), Milton Silva (new) and Kathy Wyatt (re-elected) and Margaret Sankovitz was re-elected as a Trustee. An election was not held since there were only three nominees for the three available positions. The council will not have a teen representative this year. The parish vision and ministry plan meeting was poorly attended. The board recommended sending out an email reminder if it is held again. Plans are underway for the parish fair.

6. Home and School – Wendy Wallace

All Home and School Association positions have been filled except president-elect. The volunteer commitment sign-up is electronic this year. H & S is currently finalizing its budget.

7. Discussion Topic – Room Parents/Teacher Appreciation

Wendy Wallace reviewed a proposed room parent/ teacher appreciation proposal submitted by the Home and School Association. Room Parents historically have assisted teachers with class parties and collected "teacher appreciation" funds (\$30 per child) from classroom parents and applied these funds toward Christmas, birthday and end-of-year teacher gifts and a class Emerald Auction gift. Over the years, the role of Room Parent has narrowed and these volunteers now generally assist only with Christmas and end-of-year gifts with classroom parties handled by the teachers. Most recently, Room Parent money is held and administered through H&S. To better allocate volunteer resources and consolidate teacher appreciation funds to

provide one "big" bonus at Christmas, the proposal recommended eliminating room parents. Instead, H&S and SAB would collect money from families towards a teacher appreciation fund with the amount set at a minimum of \$30 per child with encouragement to provide more, as desired. SAB approved the proposed changes.

8. Discussion Topic – Mission Statement

Proposed changes to the school mission and vision statement made by school staff were reviewed. The SAB liked the changes made to the values of Innovation and Community. They recommended the following changes:

- Excellence – preferred inspiring instead of the change to cultivating
- Spirituality/Holiness – did not care for the word history, wanted the statement to reflect living the faith (perhaps teaching the beauty of living the Catholic faith) and were not sure about the value name change to holiness.
- Diversity – liked the change but wanted every member changed to every person

9. New Business – Uniform Policy

A small committee of staff and parents made changes to the uniform policy because last year our uniform carrier changed our uniform without much notice. The committee recommended using a new uniform carrier that had a higher quality, lower costs and offered the school a rebate on purchases. Uniforms can be ordered on line and the Fox Point Lands' End will also carry our uniform. The SAB reviewed the revised policy and made a few changes, mostly ensuring the uniform policy was consistent in all areas. There was some concern that the fleece now must be embroidered with the school logo and whether that would be cost prohibitive to some families. Lands' End has offered to print the school logo for free twice a year so that change was approved. Another reading of the revised uniform code will occur at next month's meeting. This will enable the changes to take effect in time for the upcoming school year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michele Weinschrott, School Advisory Board Member.